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DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), Bi-Monthly Purvodaya: The Rise of Opportunities that completes its second year informing and reciprocating about the growth, development and cultural significance of eastern India – in its November-December 2023 edition integrates some of the very important subjects matters pertaining to the present and the future of the region.

As India's G20 presidency has marked a significant milestone in its global leadership role, steering discussions and initiatives among the world's major economies to address complex challenges. Therefore the articles compressed in the given edition of Bi-Monthly showcases eastern India that with its rich architectural and cultural heritage, ideal destination for green tourism and bylines of connectivity with South Asia demarcates an important part in signifying India's global role. Further which the articles also transpires the role of G-20 towards attaining inclusive growth through education and skilling for the region and the country altogether.

The Bi-Monthly also represents the ideals and pace of development taking place through the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Gati Shakti Plan that is devised to expedite the connectivity. The write up deliberates how Gati Shakti approach is fuelling the multi-modal transportations network to surge the trade activity and people to people connect throughout the eastern part of our country.

Institute's study had emphasized on the role of connectivity from various perspectives be it infrastructural or socio-cultural. Institute's popular publications like the Indian Ocean Civilization have flaunted the century old tradition of maritime trade across South and South East Asia, as Indian Ocean is regarded as the preeminent maritime trade route. It was believed that on the auspicious day of Karthik Purnima, full moon day Boita Bandana i.e. a customary practice of being worshipped by their families for their safety and fruitful trade. The sailors voyaged to South East Asian countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam to initiate trade and bring back goods. Even today the 2,500 year old tradition, as believed of Boita Bandana- which means an argosy or a large sail boat and bandana is worshipping with lighted lamp is carried out in costal Odisha. The Odia article therefore meticulously defines how even in our moving tale of life the age old festival of Boita Bandana or Bali Yatra carried around this time of the year- the largest open trade fare gives a sustainable opportunity merchandise of all types along with an occasion to associate over belief and traditions over and over again. In the fervor of festivities with a hope that all the Institute's readers and followers are in the best of their health, the team ISCS wishes happiness and prosperity of each and every one.

— Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India



Dreamstime

G20 AND EASTERN INDIA

Shri Laxmi Narayan Mallik*

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the 18th G20 Summit of 2023 was held in a grand manner in New Delhi in September marking the first-ever G20 summit hosted by the country. The theme of India's G20 Presidency – “VasudhaivaKutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future” – is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

India's G-20 presidency with representation from world's most powerful countries accounting for 85 % of the global GDP and 75 % of global exports, has provided a platform for international economic cooperation & also an opportunity for India. It has helped her to exercise greater influence on the global policies across economic, social, environmental, and digital sectors.

Viewed as a diplomatic milestone, the summit has proved India's significant role in all aspects of the international arena. India was successfully able to achieve consensus around the New Delhi Declaration early on in the G20 Summit, besides focus on

UN Sustainable Development Goals, climate action and green development initiatives, multilateral financing, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), international taxation and envisioning India- Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as a network of transportation routes encompassing railways and sea lanes with the primary objective to promote economic development by fostering integration between Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe. The outcomes of the Summit were transformational and would contribute to the reshaping of the global order in the decades ahead.

G20 and Eastern Indian States:

The Prime Minister's approach of *Janbhagidari* involved broad sections of our society in the G20 programmes and activities. The 200 plus meetings in 60 cities represented an unprecedented footprint for G20 events in the length & breadth of the country. As a result, the Indian G20 Presidency was truly people-centric and emerged as a national endeavour.

Starting from Konark to Nalanda, Eastern India's architectural heritage took center stage at the Summit. As President welcomed the guests at a ceremonial dinner at the Bharat Mandapam venue, a replica of the ancient Nalanda University - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - in Bihar formed the backdrop. One of the oldest universities of the world, that represents an embrace of diversity, meritocracy, freedom of thought, collective governance, autonomy, and knowledge sharing, all aligning with the core principles of democracy. A beautiful image of the Sun Temple at Konark, Odisha formed the backdrop when the Prime Minister greeted G20 leaders before the start of the Summit at the Bharat Mandapam. Built in the 13th century, the Sun Temple at Konark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, embodies India's ancient wisdom, advanced civilisation, and architectural excellence.

Odisha:

G20 India's second Culture Working Group Meet concluded in Bhubaneswar with a holistic vision to work towards a collective sustainable future and universal well-being. The theme of the meeting that commenced from May 14-17 was 'culture unites all'. The meeting highlighted the four priority areas of India's

G20 Presidency that focus on cultural diversity, creative economy, preservation of cultural heritage, and digital transformation in cultural space.

The Delegates visited the Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves dating back to the 1st century, the architectural design of double-storeyed caves with sculptural embellishments and Brahmi inscriptions, the Gandhi Peace Centre in Bhubaneswar to see the digital-interactive museum that narrates the story of Bapu through new-age technology, the Kala Bhoomi, Odisha Crafts Museum in Bhubaneswar which celebrates the rich craftsmanship of the Indian artisans by putting on display their breath-taking masterpieces.

The 3rd meeting of the Education Working Group was held in Bhubaneswar from April 27-28, 2023. A special exhibition on the theme of "Future of Work" was organised, where the activities were based on the vision that there should be widespread deliberations and effective outreach in every district on the emerging skilling requirements and the need for continuous skilling, reskilling and up-skilling to prepare the youth by equipping them with relevant skills, speed, and agility. It emphasised a coordinated approach to prioritize reforms, reimagine learning, redefine talent and at the same time create frameworks for preparing social, political, and business leaders for future of work.

As part of *Janbhagidari*, month long events commenced in the state of Odisha during April such as, Quiz contests, Essay competitions, Declamation contests, YuvaSamvad etc. Seminars have been organized on various topics related to Future of Work like workshop on drone application in agriculture, future of robotics, climate change impact on livestock productivity, future of chemical engineering, decarbonisation, aluminium production, etc. Students from schools, ITIs, Polytechnics, colleges including engineering colleges and beneficiaries of Jan ShikshanSansthan (JSS) participated in these events.

As the state of Odisha has a significant tribal population, a special focus was also on Tribes of Odisha and their products by showcasing during various events and programmes. As 2023 is the international year of Millets, food festival where millets and local cuisines were served to introduce the G20 delegates and participants to India's traditional food.

West Bengal:

The 2nd Tourism Working Group meeting was held at Siliguri/Darjeeling from 1st-3rd April 2023. The deeper and broad aspects of five priorities of Tourism Working Group, viz; Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs, Destination Management were discussed. A Side Event on 'Adventure Tourism as a vehicle for achieving Sustainable Development Goals' in which seven North-eastern states gave presentations on adventure Tourism.

As part of Janbhagidari and aimed at highlighting vast tourism-potential of the region, G20 delegates flagged-off a Himalayan Drive Car Rally in Siliguri, visited the historic Makaibari Tea Estate in Kurseong, the world's first tea factory for tea tasting and moonlight tea leaf plucking experience and also experienced a ride of the famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (Toy Train), a UNESCO World Heritage site from Ghum, India's highest railway station (altitude of 2,258 meters) to Batasia Loop.

The first 'Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion' meeting of the G20 was held in Kolkata in January. The three-day meeting focussed on the principles of digital financial inclusion, remittance costs and SME finance availability. It also featured symposiums, exhibitions and a domestic outreach programme on digital financial literacy involving over 1,800 students from various schools. The State got a chance to promote West Bengal as an ideal destination for investment before the representatives of the member countries.

The third and final meeting of G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) was held from 9 to 11 August 2023 in Kolkata. Over 154 delegates from G20 Members, 10 invitee countries, and various international organizations attended the meeting.

Jharkhand:

The G20 summit's working group meeting in Ranchi, Jharkhand, was a remarkable event for the state by providing new impetus to the immense possibilities of development in Jharkhand. The two day programme in March included the Research & Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) which provided an excellent

opportunity for the State to showcase its innovative ideas and potentials for progress. A visit to Patrattu Lake Resort and Shilpgram fair showcased the rich tribal culture and tradition of Jharkhand.

Jharkhand is one of the eight states in the country through which the Tropic of Cancer passes. Following the principles of 'One Sun, One Grid', electricity can be generated on a large scale through solar energy in Jharkhand. The climate and geographical location of Jharkhand are considered suitable for solar and wind energy.

The tourism industry can prove to be another untapped resource for Jharkhand. The state has hundreds of picturesque places like the hills of Netarhat, the luxurious resort of Patrattu, temple towns of Deoghar, Parasnath and Rajrappa, and numerous waterfalls, which can become a centre of attraction for domestic as well as foreign tourists. The G-20 summit provided a golden opportunity to leverage the unique strengths of Jharkhand for inclusive development and to accelerate the slow pace of development.

Bihar:

Along with the heads of government meeting in Delhi on the occasion of the G20 summit, the decade-old Bihar Museum hosted an art biennale, with artists from all those countries participating. The "History of Civilization" exhibition evoked a sense of memory, exploring ideas of identity and roots. It included representation of the state's rich history through artefacts in terracotta, bronze, stones and manuscripts. Pataliputra, the old name of Patna, was a place where art and cultural glory thrived, and the region was the centre of education. The exhibit underscored what the history of the region stood for – a seat of power that reflects the pluralistic nature of India where all religions existed side by side; Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. The exhibits presented a non-Eurocentric approach through the selection of countries like Nepal, Costa Rica, Panama, Israel, Thailand and Russia. It was a great opportunity for Bihar, which has a glorious past and a rich cultural heritage, to showcase its soft power.

The Labour20 Summit held in Patna in June, resolved for a multilateral mechanism among G20 member states and other associated countries on the portability of social

security benefits. The summit was attended by trade union leaders as well as experts on labour from 28 countries, along with representatives from Indian trade unions.

Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh hosted the meeting of the G-20 Summit Working Group Committee in Visakhapatnam on March 28 and 29 in a grand manner in which the representatives from G20 member countries, the European Union, multilateral development banks, and international organisations took part. The meeting discussed the various facets of future-ready urban infrastructure, propelling urban economic growth, financing future infra, increasing private financing and participation, etc. The sessions also threw light on environmentally sustainable and energy-efficient infrastructure and reducing social imbalances in the cities.

The summit provided the Andhra Pradesh government the opportunity to promote the State

as a global investment destination by highlighting the advantages of investing in the State. The government could showcase Visakhapatnam as one of the beautiful tourist destinations with its historical sites, museums, pristine beaches, Dutch cemeteries, and Buddhist circuits and the tribal art and culture, and crafts of the region. The G20 meeting was also preceded by various Janbhagidari initiatives, like model G20 sessions in schools, G20 Marathon and a two-day regional workshop on 'How cities can leverage private finance'.

The G20 summit provided an opportunity to the states of Eastern India to showcase their inherent strength for inclusive growth and untapped potentials and redefine their narrative on the global stage. The summit will definitely help to resolve the challenges prevalent in the region by several ways like global attention, infrastructure development, tourism boost, knowledge sharing, improving cultural ties, etc. The real work begins now as the commitments are to be implemented with involvement of all stake-holders in right earnest to ensure they lead to real, positive change for the people of the region.



Dreamstime

* Advisor, Vizag Seaport Pvt. Ltd. & Retd. ED (Logistics) SAIL



Dreamstime

G20 AND THE INITIATIVES TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Smita Bhasker *

"Education is not only the foundation upon which our civilization has been built but it is also the architect of humanity's future"

- PM Shri Narendra Modi

The G20 initiative for education also known as the education working group of the G20 was established to address global education challenges. The G20 initiative for education was launched as part of the G20 summit process. It gained momentum during the 2017 G20 summit held in Hamburg, Germany with a focus on achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all. The initiative aimed to promote dialogue and cooperation among G20 member countries and relevant stakeholders to address pressing education issues.

The education working groups under the past G20 presidencies have focused on strengthening educational systems by making them more inclusive, accessible and innovative. The focus area of the initiatives typically includes:

Quality Education: the role of education in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth;

Girls Education: aiming to address gender disparities in education;

Digital Education: this efforts to bridge the digital divide, promote digital literacy and harness technology for education access;

Vocational and Technical Education: G20 Nations have supported vocational and technical educational programs acknowledging their importance in addressing the skills gap and promoting employability;

Education for Sustainable Development: G20 has shown commitment to integrating education for sustainable development into national curricula and policies, recognising the importance of environment education;

Education Financing: G20 has discussed ways to finance education initiatives and reduce barriers to accessing education, especially in developing countries.

It also addresses issues like teacher training, educational poverty, universal quality education and continuity of learning in times of crisis. G20 members have shared their experiences of dealing with disruptions and learning losses by adoption of innovative methods of teaching learning especially during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Such issues have been discussed under the previous G20 presidencies.

Harbinger of Positive Change

With India taking the presidency of 2023 G20 summit, it aims to work together with G20 countries to bridge gaps in quality education and skilling. The theme of the 2023 G20 summit "One Earth One Family One Future" resonates with India's ancient belief that the world is one family in order to find solutions to the common challenges that the planet is facing.

India proposes to build on and carry forward the deliberations held under past presidencies and address the problems that are preventing the full transformation, potential of education from being realised. In line with this spirit priority areas have been identified for deliberation that will serve to identify and address major problems that are being encountered by learners across the world preventing education from becoming an effective tool for improving lives.

In line with the above approach the following four priority issues have been identified for deliberation in the G20 education working group meet:

Ensuring Foundational Literacy and Numeracy especially in the context of blended learning –

The G20 members stated that foundational learning (literacy, numeracy and socio emotional skills) is the critical building block for successful education, employment, and lifelong learning. It has sought to ensure more equitable access to quality early childhood and pre-school education and resources to all population segments such as children with disabilities and individuals from minority groups. India has developed "JaaduiPitara" a play based learning teaching material for children of 3 to 8 years age group at the foundational stage of education.

Making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, qualitative and collaborative at every level –

Many G20 member countries and guest economies have placed digital equity at the foremost of their vision and goals, gearing recent policies and decisions towards tech - enabled teaching and learning across all education levels to blend online and in-person methods.

Building Capacities, promoting life-long Learning–

The highlighted areas are post-secondary education, offering skill based Certificate, Diploma, undergraduate and post graduate programs, trainings in the context of Future of Work.

Strengthening Research, promoting Innovation through richer collaboration and partnerships –

Today global and National University across the G20 collaborate and participate actively in the pooling of scientific resources across academic units and institutions within the G20 countries governments and regional blocks have encouraged increasing levels of research investment and address the need for innovations.

Hence, India has shown the significant progress in driving the education agenda forward, surpassed previous efforts.

The G20 summit provided targeted gender responsive support to low performing students from disadvantaged backgrounds and students with special education needs

and those at risk of falling behind. Providing all young people with high level of cognitive quality education and timely career guidance.

The need to adapt and use new e-learning innovatively with an objective to provide quality education with better governance is the order of the day. Several initiatives taken by the Government in this direction like 'Study Webs of Active-learning for Young Aspiring Minds', or 'Swayam', an online platform that hosts all courses from Class 9 to the post-graduate level and enables students to learn remotely while focussing on access, equity and quality which has over 34 million enrolments and more than 9000 courses, the 'Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing' or 'Diksha Portal' aiming to deliver school education through distance learning which has witnessed over 137 million course completions so far have become very effective learning tools.

In recent years, education has emerged as a critical component of India's G20 agenda, underscoring its commitment to shaping a brighter and more equitable future for its citizens contributing to global development. In this comprehensive overview, we will delve into the multifaceted role of education in India's G20 agenda exploring its significance, challenges, and the initiative that India has undertaken to make education a key driver of its economic and social progress.

Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasized that foundation literacy forms a strong base for the youth and India is combining it with technology. He highlighted the 'National initiative for proficiency in reading with understanding and numeracy' or 'Nipun-Bharat' initiative by the government and expressed happiness that foundational literacy and numeracy has been identified as a priority by G20 as well.

According to Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship the collaborative action under G20 India Presidency has transcended beyond the Ministerial engagement and has witnessed participation from 5.2 core stakeholders spread across school education, higher education & skill ecosystem. Janbhagidari events were organised under the leadership of the Ministry of Education in all states and UTs. All the autonomous bodies such as Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Navodaya Vidyalaya, NCERT, CBSE and state governments are actively participated in conducting various kinds of activities to create awareness on Fundamental Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and recognizing its importance in fostering innovation and adaptability in education systems and G20.

Education must transcend geopolitical boundaries. We must collectively ensure that all the children and youth of the world benefit from holistic education and are equipped with 21st century skills.

“Investing in education and skilling is investing in the progress of Humanity”



Visitors enjoying musical programme at Central Park, Connaught Place during NDMC G20 Flower Festival

Dreamstime

* Gua Ore Mines, Gua, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand



Dreamstime

GATI SHAKTI – THE SPEED OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Chinmoy Swain *

Infrastructure is the pathway of development on which countries have treaded to their glory of development, transforming their economic prosperity and well-being of citizens. For example the USA after the World War 2 ,South Asian Countries in early nineties and China in the decades from 2001 to 2020s ,All these countries have witnessed phenomenal transformation on the backdrop of rapid, efficient and planned Infrastructure development covering almost all sectors be it Highways, Ports, Railways, Airports, Telecom or Digital infrastructure . Now the decade of India has arrived and to seize the opportunity a coordinated, structured with speed and force impetus towards overall economic development is required, for giving the desired push and to speed up the progress Gati Shakti was born, exactly two years ago on 13th October 2021 a vision of our Honorable Prime Minister Modi.

Why Infrastructure development is so crucial for economic progress of a country it is because of the multiplier effects that resulted through this infrastructure spending. Not only does an infrastructure project contribute immediately

through increased demand for labour, construction material etc., but also through the second order effects of improved connectivity that brings along with it viz: Goods & People will move faster between destinations speeding up the economic activities. This entails the cost of logistics to come down. Studies by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy have estimated the multiplier for these infra development is in tune of between 2.5-3.5x. This means, for every rupee spent in creating infrastructure, GDP gains worth Rs. 2.5-3.5 times. Hence if this infrastructure spending becomes coordinated, targeted, planned and expeditious then the same will speed up the wheel of economic progress which is what PM GatiShakti programme aims for.

Prime Minister launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services from one mode of transport to another. It will facilitate the first and last mile connectivity of infrastructure.

Infrastructure development is always a holistic approach, e.g. once a road is built then for laying gas or power underground cables if it is dug after being made not only the expenses /damages will go up but also will surely create discomfort/disturbances to the intended user community. So a holistic development taking care of all related concerned departments at planning and execution stage is always useful and desirable. Same is for obtaining clearance and finding the optimal solution a coordinated effort by bringing all related ministries under one platform is always helpful. Which the PM Gati Shakti Programme is trying to do.

PM Gati Shakti is based on the following core principles:

Comprehensiveness: It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.

Prioritization: Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectorial interactions.

Optimization: The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.

Synchronization: Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos. There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.

Analytical: The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.

Dynamic: All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectorial projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

Now Eastern India is a Region with Potential under Gati Shakti and will be benefitted handsomely

Eastern India is a region known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse natural resources with a sizable population. Comprising states such as West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and the north-eastern states, this region has the potential to emerge as an economic powerhouse. However, inadequate infrastructure, logistical bottlenecks, and connectivity issues have impeded its progress for decades.

Impact on Eastern India

Improved Connectivity: Gati Shakti has brought about a significant improvement in connectivity within Eastern India. The development of Eastern dedicated freight corridors, expressways, and upgrades to existing road and rail networks have reduced travel times and transportation costs. This, in turn, has made the region more attractive for businesses and investors.

Enhanced Trade Opportunities: Eastern India has several major ports like Kolkata, Haldia, and Dhamra& Paradip, which will play a crucial role in trade. Gati Shakti's focus on improving port connectivity and modernizing logistics infrastructure has led to a surge in trade activity. Eastern India is now better positioned to tap into international trade routes, boosting economic growth.

Industrial Growth: The improved transportation infrastructure has attracted industries to the region. Bihar& Odisha, for instance, has seen increased interest from manufacturing companies due to its strategic location and improved connectivity. This has led to job creation and economic development in the state.

Agricultural Development: Eastern India is predominantly agrarian, and efficient transportation is vital for the agriculture sector. Gati Shakti's investment in rural road connectivity has helped farmers access markets more easily, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing their income.

Tourism Boost: The north-eastern states of India, part of Eastern India, have immense tourism potential. Improved transportation infrastructure has made it easier for tourists to visit the region, boosting the

tourism industry and generating revenue for the local economy.

Urbanization and Smart Cities: Gati Shakti's integrated approach extends to urban planning as well. Several cities in Eastern India, like Kolkata and Bhubaneswar, are undergoing transformations into smart cities. These initiatives are aimed at improving the quality of life for residents and attracting businesses.

Challenges and the Way Forward

While Gati Shakti has brought about positive changes, many challenges remain e.g. Land acquisition, environmental concerns, and project execution delays are some of the hurdles that need to be addressed. Additionally, the region needs to focus on skill development and education to fully harness the benefits of infrastructure development.

Conclusion

Gati Shakti is a visionary initiative that is reshaping the landscape of Eastern India. The program's emphasis on seamless connectivity and integrated logistics is unlocking the region's true potential. With continued investment and concerted efforts to address challenges, Eastern India can look forward to sustained economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards, ultimately contributing significantly to India's development story.



Dreamstime

* Genl. Manager (Logistics) SAIL, Kolkata

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସଂସ୍କୃତିରେ ବୋଇତ ବନ୍ଦାଣ

ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ମହାଲିକ

ଗୋଟିଏ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଜାତିର ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ତା'ର ସଭ୍ୟତା, ପରମ୍ପରାକୁ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ କରିବା ଏକ ଗୌରବମୟ ଧାରା । ଗୋଟିଏ ଜାତିକୁ ଚିହ୍ନିବା, ଅନ୍ୟକୁ ଚିହ୍ନାଇବାର କଳାକୁଶଳତା ସଭିକୁ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହୋଇ ନ ଥାଏ । ଆମ ଚେତନା ପ୍ରବାହରେ ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ସଭ୍ୟତା, ପରମ୍ପରାକୁ ସାଧୁରେ ନେଇ ଏକ ଉତ୍କଳ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଆଡ଼କୁ ଗତି କରିବା ଜରୁରୀ ହୋଇପଡ଼େ । ସଂସ୍କୃତି ହିଁ ଜାତିର ପରିଚୟ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରେ । ଗୋଟିଏ ଜାତି ତା'ର ଅତୀତର କଥାକୁ ଶ୍ରବଣ କରିବାକୁ ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ ହୁଏ, ପରମ୍ପରା ଭବିଷ୍ୟତକୁ ଅନୁପ୍ରେରିତ କରାଏ । କାହିଁ ଶତ ଶତ ବର୍ଷର ଲୁପ୍ତ ଇତିହାସ, ସେଇ ଶୁଖି ସେମିତି ଯାଇଥିବା କାଳର କରାକ ରତ୍ନରୁ ଆମ ଗୌରବମୟ ଇତିହାସକୁ ଖୋଜି ବସୁ । ଅନ୍ୟକୁ ଦେଖାଇବାର ସ୍ୱତଃ ଅହଂ ଭିତରେ ଆମ ଅସ୍ଥିତାକୁ ଖୋଜୁ । ଆମକୁ ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ଆମ ଜାତିର ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ତା'ର ସଭ୍ୟତା, ତା'ର ପରମ୍ପରା ଉଜ୍ଜୀବିତ କରାଏ । ସମୟର ବାଲୁକା ଶେଯରୁ ଆମେ ସତ୍ୟର ସନ୍ଧାନ କରୁ । ଅନନ୍ତ ସମ୍ଭାବନାକୁ ପୁଣି ସଜାଡ଼ିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରୁ । ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ ଉତ୍କଳ ସଂସ୍କୃତିକୁ ଖୋଜି ବସୁ ଆମେ । ସେଇ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସମୟ ସ୍ରୋତରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ଦେଖୁ ଆମ ଅତୀତର ଗୌରବମୟ ଇତିହାସ, କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ, ଲୋକକଥା, ଆମ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ବୋଇତ ବନ୍ଦାଣ ।

କଳିଙ୍ଗ ସାମ୍ରାଜ୍ୟ ପୂର୍ବକାଳରେ ଗଙ୍ଗାଠାରୁ ଗୋଦାବରୀ ଯାଏ ପରିବ୍ୟାପ୍ତ ଥିଲା । ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟପୂର୍ବ ୪୭୦ ଅବ୍ଦରେ ମଗଧ କଳିଙ୍ଗକୁ ଜୟ କରିଥିଲା । କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଥିଲା ସମସ୍ତ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧଶାଳୀ । ତତ୍କଳର ସୁନରଳ ଆଦିଷ୍ଟତ ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ତାଳପତ୍ର ପୋଥିରୁ ଜଣାଯାଏ, ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଗୁପ୍ତ ମୌର୍ଯ୍ୟଙ୍କ ପୂର୍ବରୁ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ମହାରାଜ ଧୈର ଖାରବେଳଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ ମଗଧ ଠାରୁ ସ୍ୱାଧିନତା ଘୋଷଣା କରିଥିଲେ । ଉଦୟଗିରିରେ ଥିବା ହାତୀଗୁମ୍ଫା ଲେଖାରେ ଖାରବେଳଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ସଂପର୍କରେ ବିବରଣୀ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ତାଙ୍କ ଶାସନ କାଳରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ନୌବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ସିଂହଳ (ଶ୍ରୀଲଙ୍କା), ବର୍ମା(ମିଆମାର), ସିଆମ (ଥାଇଲାଣ୍ଡ), ଭିଏତନାମ, କାୟୋଜ-କାୟୋଡିଆ, ବୋଣ୍ଡିଓ, ବାଲି, ସୁମାତ୍ରା, ଜାଭାଦ୍ୱୀପ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବ୍ୟାପ୍ତ ଥିଲା । ଅଶୋକ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ କରି କଳିଙ୍ଗକୁ ଜୟ କଲେ । ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟପୂର୍ବ ତୃତୀୟ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀ ବେଳକୁ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ନୌବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନିଜର ସ୍ଥିତିକୁ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ କରିସାରିଥିଲା । କଳିଙ୍ଗର ସାଧବପୁଅ ବା କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଚଣିକମାନେ ସାଗରରେ ନିଜକୁ ନୌଚାଳନା କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଦକ୍ଷ କରାଇପାରିଥିଲେ । ସାମୁଦ୍ରିକ ଝଡ଼ ବାତ୍ୟା, ଜଳଦସ୍ୟୁକୁ ପ୍ରତିହତ କରିବାର କଳା ଶିଖିଥିଲେ । ପାଲଟଣା ବୋଇତ ବା ଅର୍ଣ୍ଣବପୋତରେ ଦକ୍ଷିଣପୂର୍ବ ଦ୍ୱୀପପୁଞ୍ଜରେ ନିଜର ସ୍ଥିତି ତିଆରି କରିବାର ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ପାଇଥିଲେ ।

ଗ୍ରୀକ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକ ଚଲେମିଙ୍କର 'The geography' ରୁ ଜଣାଯାଏ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟଙ୍କ ପୂର୍ବରୁ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଉପକୂଳରେ ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ପୋତାଶ୍ରୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଯଥା, ପଲୁର (ଗଞ୍ଜାମ), ନନିଗେନ (ପୁରୀ), କତି କର୍ଦମ (କଟକ), କୋଣାରା(କୋଣାର୍କ), କୋଣର(ବାଲେଶ୍ୱର), ତାମ୍ବଲିପି(ତମଲୁକ) ଡିନ୍ଦସ(Tyndus) ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ, ଦୋସରାମ(ବୈତରଣୀ), ଆଦାମସ (ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା), ଚଲିତାକୋ (ତିତ୍ରୋପୁଳା), ପାଲୁର ବନ୍ଦର ଦକ୍ଷିଣପୂର୍ବ ଏସିଆର ଜଳପଥ ଭାବେ ଖ୍ରୀ:ପୂ: ୨୫୦୦ରୁ ଖ୍ରୀ: ୫୦୦ ଯାଏଁ ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଥିଲା ।

କଳିଙ୍ଗର ସାଧବମାନଙ୍କର ଜଳଯାତ୍ରା ସମୟ ଆଷାଢ଼ ସପ୍ତମୀରୁ କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସ ଯାଏ ଥିଲା । ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଗୁପ୍ତଙ୍କ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କୌଟିଲ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କ ଅର୍ଥଶାସ୍ତ୍ରରେ ଜଳଯାତ୍ରା କିପରି ନୀତି ନିୟମରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଏ, ତାହା ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରିଥିଲେ । ସାଧବମାନେ ଜାଣିଥିଲେ ଆଷାଢ଼ ମାସରେ ନଦୀ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା ହୁଏ ଏବଂ ମୌସୁମୀବାୟୁ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହୁଏ । ମୌସୁମୀବାୟୁ ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ପଶ୍ଚିମରୁ ପ୍ରବାହିତ ହେବା କାରଣରୁ ଶ୍ରୀଲଙ୍କା ଆଦି ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ଦିଗର ସ୍ଥାନମାନଙ୍କରୁ ସହଜରେ ବୋଇତ ଫେରିଆସେ । କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସରେ ଉତ୍ତରା ପବନ କାରଣରୁ ଉତ୍ତରଗାମୀ ବୋଇତ ସୁବିଧାରେ ଦେଶରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରେ । କାର୍ତ୍ତିକମାସ ଏକ ପବିତ୍ର ମାସ । କଳିଙ୍ଗମାନେ, ହିନ୍ଦୁ ରୀତି, ନିୟମକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରୁଥିଲେ ।

ବୌଦ୍ଧ, ଶାକ୍ତ, ଗାଣପତ୍ୟ ବିଷ୍ଣୁ, ଶିବ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆଦି ଦେବତାକୁ ଉପାସନା କରୁଥିଲେ । କଳିଙ୍ଗମାନେ ଯେ ସାହସୀ ବୀର ଥିଲେ ତା' ନୁହେଁ ସେମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କରୁଥିଲେ ସେଠାରେ ନିଜର ସ୍ଥିତି ଜାହିର କରୁଥିଲେ । ଜାଭା, ବାଲି ଉପକୂଳରେ କଳିଙ୍ଗମାନେ ଉପନିବେଶ ସ୍ଥାପନା କରି ନିଜର ଧର୍ମକୁ ସମାଜରେ ଆଦୃତ କରାଇଥିଲେ । ଜାଭା ଦ୍ଵୀପରେ ବାସ କରୁଥିବା କଳିଙ୍ଗମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏବେବି କ୍ଳାଙ୍ଗ ବୋଲି ଅଭିହିତ କରାଯାଏ । ଫାହିୟାନ ଚତୁର୍ଥ ଶତକରେ ଜାଭା ଦ୍ଵୀପ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ ସମୟରେ ଅନେକ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖିଥିଲେ । ବାଲି ଦ୍ଵୀପର ଅଧିବାସୀମାନେ ନିଜକୁ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ବୋଲି ପରିଚୟ ଦିଅନ୍ତି । ସେମାନେ କଦଳୀ ପତ୍ରୁଣାରେ ଦୀପ ରଖି ମହୁ, ତିଳ, ଚୁବ ଘାସ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଦେଇ ପୂଜା ଅର୍ଚ୍ଚନା କରନ୍ତି । ରାବଣ କାୟା ଇଚ୍ଛୋନେସିଆରେ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ମିଳେ । ବାଲିରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ପଞ୍ଚଦେବତାକୁ ପୂଜା କରାଯାଏ । ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରଭୂତିକ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଯାନ ବାଲି ଦ୍ଵୀପରେ ପ୍ରଚଳିତ । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ପରି ବାଲିଦ୍ଵୀପ ମନ୍ଦିର ମାଳିନୀ ।

ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଶୈଳଭବ ରାଜବଂଶ ଜାଭାରେ ଶୈଳେନ୍ଦ୍ର ନାମରେ ପରିଚିତ । ୨୦୦୦୦ ହଜାର ପରିବାର ସହିତ କେତୋଟି ଯାତ୍ରୀବାହି ପୋତରେ ସେଠାକୁ ଯାଇ ବସତି ସ୍ଥାପନା କଲେ । ୯ମ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀରେ ଶୈଳେନ୍ଦ୍ରମାନେ ଜାଭା, ସୁମାତ୍ରା, ମାଳୟ ଏକାଠି କରି ସାମ୍ରାଜ୍ୟ ଗଢ଼ିଲେ । ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଦେବାଦେବୀମାନଙ୍କ ଚିହ୍ନାଙ୍କିତ ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ମୁଦ୍ରା ପଦକ ଜାଭାରେ ମିଳିଥିବାର ସାର ଏପି ଫେରି ବ୍ରହ୍ମଦେଶର ଇତିହାସରେ ଲେଖିଛନ୍ତି । ବହୁ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ମନ୍ଦିର, ମଠ, ବୌଦ୍ଧବିହାର, ଶିବ, ଦୁର୍ଗା ଆଦି ବିଗ୍ରହ ପୂଜିତ ହେଲା । ସେଠାରେ କଳିଙ୍ଗର ସ୍ଥାପତ୍ୟ ସହିତ ମନ୍ଦିର ନିର୍ମାଣ କଳା, ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି କଳାର ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ଅଳଙ୍କାର ଅଙ୍ଗବସ୍ତ୍ର ବେଶଭୂଷା ଜାଭାରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଜାଭାଦ୍ଵୀପକୁ ହୋଲିଙ୍ଗ କୁହାଯାଏ, ଯାହା ବାୟୁବରେ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଶବ୍ଦର ଅପ୍ରଭଂଶ । ମେଘାସ୍ଥିନସ ଲେଖିଛନ୍ତି, କଳିଙ୍ଗ ଉପକୂଳ ଦୈର୍ଘ୍ୟ ୭୦୦ ମାଇଲ ଥିଲା । ଏହି ବୀର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଜଳପଥ ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ ନୌବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କାରବାର ପାଇଁ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ଥିଲା । ଚୀନ ପରିବ୍ରାଜକ ଫାହିୟାନ ଖ୍ରୀ: ୪୧୫ ଓ ହୁଏନସାଂ ଖ୍ରୀ: ୬୪୫ରେ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ବୋଇତରେ ଚୀନ ଫେରିଥିଲେ ବୋଲି ଇତିହାସ କହେ । ପେରିପ୍ଲସ ନାମକ ପୁସ୍ତକ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିୟ ପ୍ରଥମ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀରେ ଲିଖିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଏହି ପୁସ୍ତକରେ ଅଛି ସେତେବେଳେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ବିପୁଳ ପରିମାଣରେ ହାତୀଦାନ୍ତ ମିଳୁଥିଲା ଏବଂ ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମ ବସ୍ତ୍ର ତାମ୍ବୁଲିପି ବନ୍ଦରରେ ପ୍ରଧାନ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଥିଲା । ଐତିହାସିକ ହର୍ଷର ସାହେବ ତାଙ୍କ ଲେଖାରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ, ମହାନଦୀ, ପିପିଲି, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର ବନ୍ଦରରେ ୩୦୦ରୁ ୪୦୦ ଚନ ବୋଝେଇ ଜାହାଜ ଯିବାଆସିବା କରୁଥିଲା । କଳିଙ୍ଗ ବିଦେଶକୁ ରପ୍ତାନୀ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଅରଣ୍ୟର ସଂଗୃହୀତ ହାତୀଦାନ୍ତ, ଚମଡ଼ା, ଶିଙ୍ଗ ରେଶମୀପାତ, ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମ ବସ୍ତ୍ର, ଚସର, ଚାନ୍ଦୁଆ, ସୁଗନ୍ଧ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ, ମସଲା, ଗୁଆ, ଲୁଣ, ପିତ୍ତଳ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ, ହଳଦୀ, ଧାନ, ଝୁଣା, କଟକର ତାରକସୀ କାମ, ମାଟିପାତ୍ର ଇତ୍ୟାଦି । ସିଂହଳକୁ ହାତୀ ଯାଉଥିଲା । ବିଦେଶରୁ ସୁନା, ମୁଦ୍ରା, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାର ପଥର ରତ୍ନ, ବୋଇତିକଖାରୁ, ଚନ୍ଦା, ଅଗୁରୁ ମସଲା ଆମଦାନୀ ହେଉଥିଲା । ଭାରତ ଓ ଚୀନ ସଂଯୋଗ ମାର୍ଗରେ କାନ୍ଥୋଡିଆ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ । ଗୋଟାଣ ପର୍ବତର ମହେଶ୍ଵର ମନ୍ଦିର, କଳିଙ୍ଗର ମହେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପର୍ବତ ଶିଖର ସ୍ଥିତ ଗୋକର୍ଣ୍ଣେଶ୍ଵର ସମସାମୟିକ, ଗଙ୍ଗମାନଙ୍କର କୀର୍ତ୍ତି । ପୁରୀରେ ଚକ୍ରତୀର୍ଥ ପରି ଏଠାରେ ଚକ୍ରତୀର୍ଥସ୍ନାନା ବିଷ୍ଣୁ ମନ୍ଦିର ଅଛି । ରାଜା ମହେନ୍ଦ୍ର ବର୍ମାଙ୍କ ଶିଳାଲେଖାରୁ ଜଣାଯାଏ ଯେ, ତ୍ରିଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵରଦେବ ଓ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ମନ୍ଦିର ଏଠାରେ ଅଛି । କଳିଙ୍ଗ କାନ୍ଥୋଡିଆର ଧର୍ମ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ଏକ ପ୍ରକାର ଥିଲା । କଳିଙ୍ଗରୁ ଶ୍ୟାମ ଦେଇ ଚୀନକୁ ଜଳପଥରେ ଯାତ୍ରା ହେଉଥିଲା । ଶ୍ୟାମରେ କଳିଙ୍ଗର ବୌଦ୍ଧ-ବୈଷ୍ଣବ ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ମନ୍ଦିର ଓ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ଗଠନ କଳା ଏକ ପ୍ରକାର । ସୁମାତ୍ରାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ କଳିଙ୍ଗ ସ୍ଥାପତ୍ୟ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି ଉଲ୍ଲେଖନୀୟ ପ୍ରଭାବ ବିସ୍ତାର କରିଛି ।

ହର୍ଷର ସାହେବଙ୍କ 'ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଇତିହାସ'ରେ ଜଣାଯାଏ ଯେ, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର ଉପକୂଳରେ ବାଲେଶ୍ଵରକୁ ଛାଡ଼ି ସାରଥୀ, ଛନ୍ଦୁଆ (ଛାନୁଆ), କାଲହନପୁର, (ନଇଛଣପୁର, ବାହାନଗା ବୁକ, ଖରାସାହାପୁର), ତୁରମନ(ତୁଡ଼ାମଣୀ) ଓ ଧାମରା ବନ୍ଦର ଥିଲା ।

କଳିଙ୍ଗର ସାଧବପୁଅ ବେପାର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବିଦେଶକୁ ଜଳଯାତ୍ରା କରିବା ସମୟରେ ଅନୁକୂଳ ପାଣିପାଗ ଜ୍ୟୋତିଷ ଗଣନା କରି ଶୁଭ ସମୟ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରଣ କରି ବାହାରୁ ଥିଲେ । ସାଧବ ବୋହୂମାନେ ନିଜର ଇଷ୍ଟ ଦେବାଦେବୀକୁ ପୂଜାର୍ଚ୍ଚନା କରି ବୋଇତ ବନ୍ଦାଇ ସାଧବମାନଙ୍କୁ ହସିହସି ବିଦାୟ ଦେଉଥିଲେ । ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କାଳରେ ଏହା ଆମ

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସଂସ୍କୃତିରେ ବୋଇତ ବନ୍ଦାଣ ଭାବରେ ଖ୍ୟାତି ଅର୍ଜନ କଲା । ଆମର ଖୁଦୁରୁକୁଣୀ ଓଷା, ଭୋବେଇ ଓଷା, କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା, ଶନି ପୂଜା, ତ୍ରିନାଥ ମେଳା, ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟା ଓଷା, କାଞ୍ଜିଅଁଳା ପୂଜା, ବାସେକୀପୂଜା ଆଦି ଓଷା ବ୍ରତରେ ସାଧବମାନଙ୍କ କଥା ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରାଯାଇଛି । କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସରେ ଭଗବାନ ବିଷ୍ଣୁଙ୍କ ମସ୍ୟ ଅବତାର, କାର୍ତ୍ତିକେୟଙ୍କ ଜନ୍ମ, ତୁଳସୀ ଜନ୍ମ ହୋଇଥାଏ । କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସର ଶେଷ ପାଞ୍ଚଦିନ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପବିତ୍ର । ବିଧବାମାନେ ଦିନରେ ଥରେ ସାବୁନ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଖାଇ ହରିଷ୍ୟ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତି । କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଦିନ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ଉଠି କଦଳୀପତ୍ର କିମ୍ବା ସୋଲ ନିର୍ମିତ ତଙ୍ଗାରେ ଦୀପ କିମ୍ବା ମହମବତୀଟିଏ ଜାଳି ତା' ଭିତରେ ପାନ, ଗୁଆ, ତୁବ, ବରକୋଳିପତ୍ର, ଫୁଲ ଆଦି ପୂଜା ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ରଖି ତଙ୍ଗାଟିକୁ ଭସାଇ ଦେଲା ବେଳେ ଗାଇଉଠନ୍ତି -

ଆ-କା-ମା-ବୈ
 ପାନ ଗୁଆ ଥୋଇ
 ଚୋ' ପାନ ଗୁଆ ଚୋ'ର
 ମାସକ କରମ ଯେନି
 ଧରମ ଯାକ ମୋର ।

ଆ-କା-ମା-ବୈର ଅର୍ଥ ହେଉଛି, ଆ'ରେ ଆଷାଢ଼, କା'ରେ-କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ, ମା'ରେ ମାର୍ଗଶିର, ବୈ'ର ଅର୍ଥ ବୈଶାଖ । ଅର୍ଥାତ ଏଇ ସବୁ ମାସରେ ଜଳଯାତ୍ରା ସହଜ ହେଉଥିଲା । ସାଧବମାନଙ୍କର ଏହି ଜଳଯାତ୍ରା ସମୟରେ ସାଧବ ବୋହୂ ସହିତ ଅନେକ ନଗରବାସୀ ଏକାଠି ହୋଇ ବିଦାୟ ଦେଉଥିଲେ । କଳିଙ୍ଗମାନଙ୍କ ବୀରତ୍ଵ, ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ, ଭୌଗୋଳିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ, ଧର୍ମପ୍ରଚାର, ନୀତି ଆଦର୍ଶ ଉପରେ ପ୍ରଚଳିତ ହେଉଥିଲା । ସେଇ ଧାରାକୁ ସ୍ମରଣ କରି ଆଜିବି ଉତ୍କଳୀୟମାନେ କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମାରେ କଦଳୀପତ୍ରରେ ତଙ୍ଗାଟିଏ କରି ନିଜର ପୂର୍ବଜମାନଙ୍କ ସ୍ମୃତିଚାରଣ କରି ଆ-କା-ମା-ବୈ କହି ନିଜ ଭିତରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର କାମନା କରନ୍ତି । କବି ମାୟାଧର ମାନସିଂହଙ୍କ କବିତାରେ-

ଦୁର୍ଗ ଆଉ ଉଠିବନି ରାଜାର ବୋଇତ,
 ନ ଫେରିବେ ମୁଦ୍ରାଧରି ଏ ତଟିନୀ ବାହି, ନଗରର ନବବଧୂ ଯେତେ ମଙ୍ଗଳ ସଂଗୀତ
 ନ ବସିବେ ତାରେ କେବେ, ମଧୁକଣ୍ଠେ ଗାଇ ।

ଆଜିବି କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପୁରପଲ୍ଲୀ ଚଳଚଞ୍ଚଳ ହୋଇଉଠେ । କଟକର ବାଲିଯାତ୍ରା ଏହି ଐତିହାସିକ ସ୍ମୃତିକୁ ଧରି ଗଡ଼ଗଡ଼ିଆ ଘାଟରେ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ବାଲିଯାତ୍ରା ମେଳା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୁଏ । ୧୮୬୯ ମସିହାରେ କଟକରେ ନୌବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଯାନ୍ତ୍ରିକ ବିଭାଗଟି ବ୍ରିଟିଶମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।

୨୦୧୩ ମସିହାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର ଏହାକୁ ସଂଗ୍ରହାଳୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ବହୁତଥ୍ୟ, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପୁରାତନ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଏଠାରେ ରହିଛି । ଏ ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଜାତିର ଇତିହାସ ସମୟର କଷଟି ପଥରରେ ଶୁଦ୍ଧ ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣପରି ଦୀପ୍ତୀମୟ ହୋଇଉଠୁ । କଳାଶ୍ରୀମୁଖ କାଳିଆ ସାଆନ୍ତ ଏ ଜାତିକୁ ଘଣ୍ଟ ଘୋଡ଼ାଇ ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।

ସା/ପୋ: ଖରାସାହାପୁର
 ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର
 ମୋ: ୭୯୭୮୩୮୭୦୭୧